

Almuslim

A monthly newsletter of Muslim community of Carbondale.
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Narrated Jabir (RAA), I heard Allah's Messenger (pbuh) saying, "Every night there is a special space of time during which whatever a Muslim asks Allah of any good relating to this life or the hereafter, it will be granted to him; and this moment comes every night". (Muslim)

Welcome New Students

Dear Muslim fellow students, on behalf of Islamic Center of Carbondale, we would like to welcome you in this community as well as at the university. Hopefully with the blessings of Almighty and the cooperation of the community you will feel at home. Inshaallah we will try our best to provide all possible facilities we can. Please do not hesitate to ask any question or need you have. All brothers and sisters will be happy to assist you in every matter. We also encourage you to participate in the ICC activities announced in this newsletter. Please keep in touch with the Muslim Student Association (MSA) of SIU, and we also encourage you to be a part of MSA.

Ambition

Shaykh Salman al-'Awdah

Ambition means that a person does not live for himself and his life, but he lives for his ummah, as the Prophet sallallahu `alayhi wa sallam was, as 'Aisha said about him. When `Abdullah bin Shaqeeq, may Allah be pleased with him, asked her if the Prophet sallallahu `alayhi wa sallam used to pray sitting? She said, "Yes, after the people wrecked him." [Ahmad, Muslim, Abu Dawud.] So he used to confront people, welcome them, and warmly leave them, command them, and prohibit them, mix up with them and tolerate their errors; that is why the people wrecked him sallallahu `alayhi wa sallam and left an effect upon his body to the point that he started to pray sitting and his hair turned gray.

Deen has levels; Islam, then Imaan, then Ihsaan. In accordance with this division there is a trilateral division, "And we gave the book as an inheritance to those whom We chose from among our servants; but of them is he who makes his soul to suffer a loss, and of them is he who takes a middle course, and of them is he who is foremost in deeds of goodness by Allah's permission; this is the great excellence.

Gardens of perpetuity' they shall abide therein; they shall be made to wear therein bracelets of gold and pearls, and their dress shall be silk." (Surat al-Faatir:32) Accordingly, there is another trilateral division that the Prophet sallallahu `alayhi wa sallam mentioned, in the hadeeth of the saved group in which he mentioned Islam first which is the only guaranty for entering Paradise. That is; nobody enters Jannah but a Muslim, and inside this large circle which is the circle of Islam, there is a smaller circle which is the circle of the Saved group and it contains those who stick to the right conduct and correct aqeedah, and no more than that. There is a third circle which is smaller than the second, and which is better, more noble and greater, and that is the circle of the Victorious group, those who defend and protect the deen and tolerate harm, therefore Allah (swt) gives them victory. So the Muslim should be ambitious and reach for these levels, and look in the deen at the one who is above him and look in the duniya at that one who is beneath him. Try to resemble the noble ones, the righteous ones, the renewers, so that you may achieve some good in this life. Have an ambitious nafs that does not get satisfied with stopping at a certain limit, and does not get enough of doing

good until it ends up in the Jannah.

Sister's Corner

How to make Delicious Saleek (Chicken and Rice in Milk)

Recipe

Ingredients:

1 whole cut-up chicken (with or without skin),
1/2 tsp. whole black pepper
1stickcinnamon, 2 cups rice
2cupsmilk, 7 cups water, 1/2 Tbls.butter,

Combine:

1/2 tsp. lemon pepper
3/4 tsp. salt (or to taste)
1tsp. oil, 1/2 tsp. water
1/2 tsp. ground cardamon

How to Prepare:

Wash chicken and place in a large pot. Pour water and whole spices over chicken, bring to a boil, and simmer 30 minutes or until cooked. Wash rice in 3 changes water and soak in water until ready to use. Remove chicken from broth and put in a large baking dish. Coat chicken with spice mixture and set aside. Drain rice and add to remaining chicken broth, bring to a boil, and simmer 10 minutes. Add butter and milk, bring to slow simmer, and cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until liquid is absorbed and rice is the consistency of rice pudding. While rice is cooking, preheat oven to 450°F degrees. Place chicken in oven and cook 10 minutes, or until browned. Serve rice spread thinly over plate with chicken and 'dugus' salad.

Kids and Teens corner

We encourage kids, teens and young writers to write for Almuslim. Best articles will be awarded with cash prizes and awards. We also encourage community members for their suggestions and participation in carrying out Almuslim.

Articles can be submitted electronically at islamic_center511@yahoo.com or by surface mail to **Islamic Center, 511 S Poplar street, Carbondale, IL-62901**. Articles must be in text format using Microsoft word or Word perfect files. Hard copies can also be submitted.

Muslim Youth of North America (MYNA) Corner (Southern Illinois Division)

Get updates on MYNA

If you would like to receive MYNA updates or find out more on how to get your youth more involved please e-mail SouthIllinoisMYNA@yahoo.com

The average of MYNA members is 12-18 years.

Goals of MYNA

1. Strengthen the faith and practice of Muslim youth, allowing them to develop an Islamic identity.
2. Help Muslim youth and communities plan and carry out educational training, and spiritual, recreational, and charitable Islamic activities.

3. Develop positive Muslim leaders for the future.

4. Establish a positive and healthy image of Islam in North America.

February Updates!

Sunday, February 20th- Monthly Nursing Home Visit and Lunch

Meet at the Poplar Masjid at 9:45am. We'll visit the nursing home and then have lunch at a fast-food restaurant at 11:30am. MYNA members are encouraged to bring their lunch from home, but if you're unable to, a few dollars should be sufficient to buy a meal.

We'll return to the Poplar Masjid at 12:30pm Insha'allah.

Friday, February 25th - Preliminary Rounds and Set up For Islamic Jeopardy

Time: 4:15pm-7: 45pm

Location: Masjid Nur

Activity: We'll be setting up for the Islamic Jeopardy on Friday. After the set up we'll have a preliminary round for the tournament in which the competitors will be narrowed by half. Bring a snack so we can all enjoy some food! We will have important tasks for all MYNA members for the final tournament even if they are not competing.

Saturday, February 26th- Islamic Jeopardy Tournament

Time: 4:00-6:30pm

Location: Masjid Nur

Activity: Final Islamic Jeopardy Tournament, Presentation of awards, and Dinner.

Anyone who would like to compete in the tournament must fill out the following form and turn it in to Sr. Umbreen Jabbar or Br. Rizwan Hashmi by February 14th.

Classified

Allah the Exalted says in Quran, "Do not help one another in sin and transgression". (Almaida, 5:2)

Community News

Current activities

Video/live lectures, Islamic quizzes for adults and children, indoor sports, Fridays between Maghrib and Isha, at ICC or Masjid An-Nour.

Friday 11, Live lecture by Dr. Baderedin Arfi. The lecture will start after maghrib prayer at Masjid AnNour. Dinner/Supper will be followed.

Upcoming event/Seminar/Conference

6th Annual ISNA Education Forum : March 25-27, 2005
Chicago, IL

THEME: Islamic Education in America: A pursuit of Excellence.

Venue: Westin O'Hare
6100 N. River Rd.
Rosemont, IL 60018. For registration and information visit online www.isna.net.

Community news can be submitted electronically at ICC511@yahoo.com or by calling at **457-2770, 457-6522**, no later than 15th of each month.